

March 12, 1996

OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE KING COUNTY COUNCIL.

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources,
Natural Resources Division File No. **E95CT030**
Proposed Ordinance No. **96-140**

Open Space Taxation (Current Use Assessment)
for Timber Land

Application of **LESLIE MORTON**

Location: 5103 328th Way SE, Fall City

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department's Preliminary:	Approve, subject to conditions
Department's Final:	Approve, subject to conditions
Examiner:	Approve, subject to conditions

PRELIMINARY REPORT:

The Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Division Report on Item No. E95CT030 was received by the Examiner on February 1, 1996.

PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Division Report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a public hearing on the subject as follows:

The hearing on Item No. E95CT030 was opened by the Examiner at 9:36 a.m., March 4, 1996, in Hearing Room No. 2, Department of Development and Environmental Services, 3600 - 136th Place S.E., Suite A, Bellevue, Washington, and closed at 9:40 a.m. Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the office of the King County Hearing Examiner.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATION: Having reviewed the record in this matter, the Examiner now makes and enters the following:

FINDINGS:

1. General Information:

Owner:	See "SUBJECT" above
Location:	See "SUBJECT" above
Zoning:	RA2.5
Acreage:	
Property Total:	16.88 acres
Requested for Timber:	14.07 acres
Recommended:	14.07 acres
STR:	22-24-07

2. Ms. Judy Wege appeared as agent for applicant Leslie Morton. Ms. Wege testifies that the applicant has read, understands and agrees to the conditions of current use taxation approval and to the requirements and recommendations contained in the Timber Management Plan.
3. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in the King County Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Division Preliminary Report to the King County Hearing Examiner for the March 4, 1996, public hearing are found to be correct and are incorporated herein by this reference. Copies of the said Report will be attached to the copies of this Report submitted to the King County Council.

CONCLUSIONS:

The property proposed for current use valuation meets the requirements of KCC 20.36.110, and the subject application for current use taxation as timber land should be approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE the subject application for current use classification of 14.07 acres as timber land, subject to the attached standard conditions of approval.

RECOMMENDED this 12th day of March, 1996.

R.S. Titus, Deputy
King County Hearing Examiner

TRANSMITTED this 12th day of March, 1996, to the following parties and interested persons:

Leslie Morton
Judy Wege

George Kritsonis, Tax Assessor's Office
Ted Sullivan, Natural Resources Division
Charlie Sundberg, Cultural Resources Division
Connie Walton, Natural Resources Division
Stephanie Warden, Metropolitan King County Council

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL AND ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

In order to appeal the recommendation of the Examiner, written notice of appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council with a fee of \$125.00 (check payable to King County Office of Finance) on or before March 26, 1996. If a notice of appeal is filed, the original and 6 copies of a written appeal statement specifying the basis for the appeal and argument in support of the appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council on or before April 2, 1996. Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal.

Filing requires actual delivery to the Office of the Clerk of the Council, Room 403, King County Courthouse, prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on the date due. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. The Examiner does not have authority to extend the time period unless the Office of the Clerk is not

open on the specified closing date, in which event delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

If a written notice of appeal and filing fee are not filed within 14 days calendar days of the date of this report, or if a written appeal statement and argument are not filed within 21 calendar days of the date of this report, the Clerk of the Council shall place a proposed ordinance which implements the Examiner's recommended action on the agenda of the next available Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council may adopt the Examiner's recommendation, may defer action, may refer the matter to a Council committee, or may remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

Action of the Council Final. The action of the Council approving or adopting a recommendation of the Examiner shall be final and conclusive unless within twenty (20) days from the date of the action an aggrieved party or person applies for a writ of certiorari from the Superior Court in and for the County of King, State of Washington, for the purpose of review of the action taken.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 1996 PUBLIC HEARING ON DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES FILE NO. E95CT030 - MORTON:

R.S. Titus was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing were Ted Sullivan and Judy Wege.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the record:

Exhibit No. 1	Not entered
Exhibit No. 2	Not entered
Exhibit No. 3	Not entered
Exhibit No. 4	Department of Natural Resources Preliminary Report to the King County Hearing Examiner for the March 4, 1996 public hearing
Exhibit No. 5	Introductory Ordinance to Council
Exhibit No. 6	Affidavit of Publication
Exhibit No. 7	Legal Notice to Council
Exhibit No. 8	Notification to Applicant of Hearing, sent February 8, 1996
Exhibit No. 9	Application, received October 25, 1995
Exhibit No. 10	Legal Description
Exhibit No. 11	Assessor Maps
Exhibit No. 12	King County Situs Report
Exhibit No. 13	Timber Management Plan
Exhibit No. 14	Site map
Exhibit No. 15	TRW property profile
Exhibit No. 16	Letter from applicant received June 5, 1995 re: timberland interest
Exhibit No. 17	Letter from applicant received January 16, 1996 re: fee and winter location
Exhibit No. 18	Letter to applicant February 1, 1996 re: receipt of application and fee
Exhibit No. 19	Notice of Hearing, Office of the Hearing Examiner, February 5, 1996

ATTACHMENT**STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR
CURRENT USE CLASSIFICATION**

Classification of the subject property shall be subject to the mutual covenants and conditions contained in Washington State Department of Revenue Form PTF 81, "Open Space Taxation Agreement", and subject to the following conditions which shall be added to said Open Space Taxation Agreement Forms:

- a. Any residence on the property shall be served by a sewage disposal system which is maintained in an operating condition adequate to prevent the pollution of surface and ground waters.
- b. The subject property shall be managed in accordance with the Forest Management Plan during the term of the Open Space Taxation Agreement.
- c. Withdrawal from classification. When land has been classified under this chapter, it shall remain under such classification and shall not be applied to other use for at least ten years from the date of classification until and unless withdrawn from classification after notice of request for withdrawal shall be made by the owner. During any year after eight years of the initial ten-year classification period have elapsed, notice of request for withdrawal of all or a portion of the land may be given by the owner to the county assessor or assessors of the county or counties in which such land is situated. In the event that a portion of a parcel is removed from classification, the remaining portion must meet the same requirements as did the entire parcel when such land was originally granted classification pursuant to this chapter. Within seven days the county assessor shall transmit one copy of such notice to the legislative body which originally approved the application. The county assessor or assessors, as the case may be, shall when two years have elapsed following the date of receipt of such notice, withdraw such land from such classification and the land shall be subject to the additional tax due under RCW 84.34.108, Provided, That agreement to tax according to use shall not be considered to be a contract and can be abrogated at any time by the legislature in which event no additional tax or penalty shall be imposed.
- d. Exploration for oil, gas or other minerals shall not be considered a change in use of the property. The extraction of oil, gas or other minerals from the property shall be considered a change of use of the property, unless the property owner does not have an interest in the mineral rights of the property, and the structures, openings and activities involved in the extraction of minerals in no way diminish the open space and/or recreational characteristics of the property.